

## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024

**Present:** Scott Travers, Gregg Thibodeau, Ryanne Schoonover (Select Board Representative) Rob Traver, Janet Slocum, Robin Ungeheuer

**Absent:** Lisa Hyatt

**Public Attendance:** Ms. Lindley Hanson

**Meeting called to order at 1900**

**Review/approve minutes of August 14, 2024** - minutes were approved. RS made a motion, and ST seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Public Topics** – Lindley Hanson talked about the bank erosion along her house on 123A (unicorn house) she stated the Highway Pit is causing this erosion along the banks and that in 2010 from the town clear cutting the gravel pit caused this. MG pointed out that erosion is also being caused by increased rainfall amounts, severe storms and the topography.

Concom has a request from the BOS - Upper Valley is looking for a point of contact for this study, the point of contact will be the town office, Upper Valley is also doing our culvert inventory process. It was brought to Concom attention as this project evolves. It was suggested and agreed to that JB is best to support this effort from her background with the highway crew and conservation.

### Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**
  - Forest Maintenance Fund      \$3,911.93 (+ \$0.314interest)
  - Conservation Land Use Fund    \$21,171.33 (interest and \$3000 Land Use tax)
  - Conservation Plan – printed in color
- **Annual By Laws** – RT will create a consolidated list of the substantive recommendations. Members will be asked to review Rob’s comments and provide any addition feedback at our next meeting. RS advised she reviewed it again and she liked the mission statement/cultural, and we should leave it as is. It was discussed that we can always add or change it down the road.

### Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
  - Intents to Cut - none
  - Permits/complaints – none
  - South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – review of forest management plan in-progress. **Action Item:** GT will consolidate our responses and schedule a time with Jeff to review. **Action Item:** MG to follow-up with the Select Board to confirm the process we need to follow to improve a small portion of Hillard Road (Class VI) to support the harvest of the South Acworth Forest.
  - Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – **Action Item:** pending to select another surveyor. **Action Item:** GT will follow up on this, no return phone calls and response from the surveyor. GT has another surveyor that the town used, and we can see if we can pick up with him. MG will get on the agenda with the BOS to start the discussion about the class VI improvement of the landing for class VI road improvement to the road for the town forest. The town needs access to support the logging operation.
  - Easement Monitoring -Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – meet-and-greet introductory session pending. **Action Item:** JB will follow up with Mr. Osgood about a date. JB left a message for Mr. Osgood, today for setting up the meet and greet.
  - Society for the Protection of NH Forests and LCHIP have begun reaching out to schedule the annual monitoring’s.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
  - Keyes Hollow HVA actions – Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) We are looking for other towns that have done the wetland assessment, we reached out to DES, and they advised us to go to Upper Valley. GT asked RT if he asked if they have a project plan, **Action Item:** RT will send that to GT. GT wants to know how the town is “funding these plans” MG is going to reach out to the director of Ducks Unlimited –who might be able to help with getting us in the correct direction. **Action Item:** JS is going to provide a list of towns that have designated Prime Wetlands because they may also have had a

wetland assessment. **Action Item:** RT would use that list to follow-up with those towns to see if they did a wetland assessment and if they have a project plan and budget information that they can share.

- Crane Brook Rd – Issues with Black water on Crane Brook Rd / levels came back to E. coli/since then the issues with the E. coli have stopped going into the brook.
- Dodge Brook issues – Linda Perry from Lempster the issues are coming from the motorcross track and they have worked on the issue to fix the problems.
- Crescent Lake Water Quality update – we did not discuss this. Will cover at our next meeting.
- Possible training with the turbidity meter training was suggested and many are interested in learning how to use the meter. **Action Item:** MG is going to take the meter and start getting a baseline since water levels are low, at the next meeting we will conduct training at the next meeting. **Action item:** Each member was asked to bring in a well water sample in a clean vessel. We will run tests using the turbidity meter.

## Communications, Training and Outreach

### • Community Outreach

- Newsletter – Jen and Gregg completed the article for the September newsletter.
- Articles for the December newsletter is due by November 20, 2014, JS and ST will be completing the December Newsletter article.
  - Topics to consider for future letters: seasonal relevant topics, iNaturalist; library corner
  - Other educational topics: Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options,
- Conservation Plan Review
  - Scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> to conduct the review. GT to confirm availability of the town hall. We are posting flyers around town and on Facebook.
  - The zoom link should be posted on the flyer and GT will get this set-up. RT is going to take care of the summaries for each section of the plan and JS will have appendix and links to the maps.
  - GT recommends that we have 20 printed copies of the plan at the meeting. Others upon request.
  - Ms. Hanson wanted aquifers to be added under the hydrology – RT thinks that he has information and on the town aquifers GT suggested we start tracking these recommendations for annual periodic updates.
  - We don't have any stream bank and erosion risks included in this plan – it is something that we should suggest that we should include in future.
  - The conservation plan is 27 pages, and it is in color, and we should have hard copies available at the Town Hall and in the library. December will be the final draft.
  - We need to complete any changes to the conservation plan NLT 30 September.
- Plan Review Presentation
  - We reviewed the 9-page PowerPoint presentation that GT created.
  - Some highlights that the presentation included:
    - Plan contents and Purpose of the plan – data was collected in 2004 and 2009 from wildlife habitats, forest and wetlands, Conservation and invasive species and more.
    - The plan does not address cultural, recreational, or historic resources, which include stone walls, mines, walking trails, etc.
    - The plan is intended to assist the Conservation Commission. This is a great resource if you have specific questions.
    - We leveraged examples from other towns, determine if any changes are needed, review of the plan annually to see if any changes are required.
    - RT recommended that we emphasize the amount of effort that is going into the management of our natural resources. He recommended that credit to be given under this section – evaluate successes, goals that we have achieved.
    - The plan defined 12 high value areas and took 5 to be our focus. They have been sectioned off on the map by location. IN the plan there is a description of each one of the areas that we are focusing on.

- RT thinks that we should do a little formatting to the plan under the Highlights, and we should break them down for the presentation on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.
  - Survey
    - GT put a questioner together and LH suggested that we have a rating for this section, excellent to poor, this form can be completed that day or emailed it into Concom.
    - MG suggested that we put a reference link to report water quality issues
    - GT needs the info finalized by the 30th of Sep so we can send it to the printer,
  - RT will take the notes at the meeting for the Conservation Plan.
- **Volunteer Field Events** – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
- **Next Meeting** – 09 October at 7pm in the Town Hall.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.**

**Conservation Commission Members:**

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair)
- RYanne Schoonover, (Select Board rep.)
- Mark Girard
- Scott Travers
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt)
- Lisa Hyatt (alt)

**Contact information:**

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- E-mail [acworthconservation@gmail.com](mailto:acworthconservation@gmail.com)
- Meeting 7:00 p.m. every 2nd Wednesday of month at the Town Hall
- Mail 13 Town Hall Rd., P.O. Box 37, Acworth, NH 03601, Attention: Conservation Commission
- Phone 603-835-6879 (town office)